WE... 22 JUN 1954 A.

HAY URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1953.

LIBRARY

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

HAY URBAN DISTRICT

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1953.

Mr.Chairman,Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District for the year 1953.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 1/54 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical Summary for the year 1953.

Area.....370 acres.
Population (Census 1951).....1452.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1953).....1448.
Number of inhabited houses.....489.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	15	12	27	
Illegitimate	2	2	4	
	17	14	31	21.4

Still Births.....0.

Deaths from all causes..	12	9	21	14.5

Maternal Deaths.....0.

Deaths under 1 year.....1. Rate per 1000 live births...32.2

Deaths from special causes.
Infectious disease.....1.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....0.
Other tuberculous disease.....0.
Cancer.....2.

Area.

The district of Hay is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire. It is situated in the northern part of the County and adjoins the Counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

The surrounding district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the surrounding residents.

Population. Census 1931.....1509.
Census 1951.....1452.

1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
1450.	1420.	1344.	1345.	1361.	1398.	1407.	1455.	1433.	1439.	1448.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

The number of inhabited houses in the district is 489 giving an average number of 2.9 persons per house.

Hay Urban District.

Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			26	19.0.
1939			15	11.2.
1940	19	20	39	28.0.
1941	12	12	24	15.3.
1942	19	9	28	19.3.
1943	7	17	24	16.5.
1944	16	13	29	20.4.
1945	16	8	24	17.8.
1946	10	14	24	17.7.
1947	14	17	31	22.7.
1948	6	10	16	11.4.
1949	15	7	22	15.6.
1950	9	10	19	13.0.
1951	14	13	27	18.8.
1952	8	9	17	11.8.
1953	17	14	31	21.4.
England and Wales,1953				15.5.

The birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales and was higher than the death rate.

Deaths. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table;

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			25	18.3.
1939			23	17.3.
1940	15	16	31	22.0.
1941	11	13	24	15.4.
1942	8	16	24	16.1.
1943	14	12	26	17.8.
1944	13	11	24	16.8.
1945	21	10	31	23.0.
1946	12	8	20	14.7.
1947	10	12	22	16.0.
1948	11	12	23	16.4.
1949	13	15	28	19.9.
1950	8	16	24	16.5.
1951	9	15	24	16.7.
1952	11	10	21	14.6.
1953	12	9	21	14.5.
England and Wales,1953				11.4.

It will be observed that the deathrate for 1953,was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, but was lower than the birth rate for the district.

Still Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			1	0.7.
1939			1	0.7.
1940	0	0	0	0.
1941	1	0	1	0.6.
1942	0	0	0	0.
1943	0	0	0	0.
1944	1	0	1	0.7.
1945	0	0	0	0.
1946	0	0	0	0.
1947	0	0	0	0.
1948	0	0	0	0.
1949	0	2	2	1.4.
1950	2	0	2	1.3.
1951	0	0	0	0.
1952	0	0	0	0.
1953	0	0	0	0.
England and Wales,1953				0.35.

The still birthrate was lower than that of the average of the whole of England and Wales.

Hay Urban District.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age.
The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			2	76.8.
1939			1	66.6.
1940	2	2	4	102.0.
1941	0	0	0	0.
1942	1	0	1	36.0.
1943	0	1	1	41.0.
1944	0	0	0	0.
1945	1	0	1	41.0.
1946	1	0	1	41.0.
1947	0	0	0	0.
1948	0	0	0	0.
1949	1	1	2	90.0.
1950	0	0	0	0.
1951	1	0	1	37.0.
1952	1	0	1	58.8.
1953	0	1	1	32.2.
England and Wales, 1953				26.8.

Analysis of Causes of Causes of Deaths. Males....12. Females.....9.

Cause.	Males.	Females.
Measles	0	1.
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	0.
Other malignant neoplasms	0	1.
Vascular lesions, nervous system	1	1.
Coronary disease	2	0.
Heart disease	5	1.
Bronchitis	0	2.
Nephritis	1	0.
Hyperplasia prostate	1	0.
Other causes	1	3.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents of the district in 1953 was four.

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in the previous year. Mr.G.Evans acted as your Sanitary Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and Painscastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease could be performed at the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff and at Hereford.

All the milk testing was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St.John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council are held regularly at Wesley Hall,Oxford Road. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments,immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available. These are also administered by the County Council.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease,are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital, Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare,immunisation,dental,orthopaedic and visual defects,and expectant mothers .Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods.The supervision of midwives, childlife protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies. The Water supplies to the district are taken from lowland springs.

During the year the water supply could not be regarded as adequate in quantity or quality.

The supply was cut off from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily from the 15th June to 7th July inclusive,and from 26th July to 18th August it was cut off completely except for 6 hours daily, and from 18th August to 22nd September only 2 hours supply daily was allowed; from 22nd September to 31st October 6 hours water per day was permitted and it was fully restored to the 24 hours on 1st November.

During the year the filter bed was divided into two parts to facilitate the removal of dirty sand after skimming and to permit the laying of new sand.

Samples taken during the year;- Hay Common, 2 samples raw water 1 satisfactory ,1 unsatisfactory.

As a result of the unsatisfactory sample,more sand was added to the filter bed.

Llangwathan., one sample taken. One unsatisfactory.

As a precaution more chloros was added daily to each supply.

Progress on the Esgyrn Brook and Llanbwchllyn Lake schemes is still proceeding very slowly.

Number of visits of inspection by Sanitary Inspector.....21.

Hay Urban District

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but it is discharged direct into the river Wye. During the year the Surveyor made progress with a scheme for a sewage disposal works, and was ready for approval at the end of the year.

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with drainage work..... 3.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. This work is done by the Council employees under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Nuisances

Number of complaints received.....27.
Number of complaints investigated.....27.
Number of premises inspected .....30.
Number of premises revisited.....23.
Number of preliminary notices served..... 2.
Number of Statutory Notices served..... 0.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector.....38.
The Sanitary accommodation was improved and modernised at 3 Inns.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....32.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....16.
Number of inspections made.....34.
Number of defects found..... 7.
Number of defects remedied..... 7.

Camping Sites. There is no licensed camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat Infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin are treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected..... 0.
Number of premises treated for vermin during the year..... 0.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operative is engaged by the Council.This same operative is also engaged by the Hay Rural District Council.This operative worked under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....242.
Number of premises found infested..... 33.
Number of premises treated by rodent operative..... 14.
Number of premises treated by occupier..... 19.
Number of dead rats recovered..... 56.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....288.

The sewers and road gullies were treated in May and October.

Legal proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 5.Housing. In spite of the efforts made by the Council in erecting housing since the end of the war there still remains some 60 live applications on the waiting list.

Houses erected during the year by Council.....Nil.
by private enterprise.....Nil.

The number of applications still on waiting list at the end of the year is 59;23 of these applicants were living in rooms and 36 in houses.

No applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act 1949 were received during the year.

Number of house to house inspections made.....48.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

Since 1st October 1949 local authorities were left with the licensing and control of distributors or dealers.

Number of dealers registered..... 1.

There are no dairies registered in your district.

Number of samples taken from dealers(T.T.)..... 4.
Satisfactory..... 1.
Unsatisfactory..... 3.

As a result of these unsatisfactory samples ,the dealer changed his source of supply.

There are 6 producer/retailers delivering milk in your district and one of these holds a licence to sell a designated milk known as "accredited" and the other 5 sell undesignated milk.

Number of samples from producer/retailers.....21.
Satisfacotry.....12.
Unsatisfactory..... 9.

The result of these samples was sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Brecon and Hereford.

Meat. There is no active slaughterhouse in the district.All the four purveyors of meat get their supplies from the Ministry of Food's slaughtering point at Brecon.

Sixteen and one half pounds of meat were condemned during the year and returned to the Ministry of Food.

There are five premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act in your district.

Other Foods.

There are 24 shops dealing in foods in your district and may be tabulated as follows;-

Grocers	10.
Grocer/Bakers	2.
Grocers/Bakers/Caterers	1.
Grocer/Caterers	2.
Fishmongers/Greengrocers	2.
Greengrocers/Confectioners	2.
Confectioners/Tobacconists	2.
Restaurants	2.
Fish and Chip Shops	1.

Number of tins of food condemned.....160.
Number of lbs. condemned.....201. lbs.

All foods are sprayed with fluorescent powder stain and buried in the refuse tip.

Food Preparation Room(including Bakehouse) There are 8 such premises in your district and certain works are required for each to conform with Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938,and it is hoped to get this work completed in the coming year.

Number of inspections made.....22.

No special examination of a shop's stock or consignment of food has been found necessary and since there is one wholesale grocer in the district,the total quantity of food condemned means that such food is not distributed to the shops in the district or to the contiguous area.

Ice-Cream Premises.

There are 5 retailers of ice-cream in your district,three of these sell pre-packed ice-cream,one is a producer/retailer,and one makes his product by using the cold mix.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

Number of inspections made.....21.

Fried Fish Shops.

There is only one such premises in the district, the second having ceased to operate in late 1952.

Number of inspections made.....18.

Section 7.Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease was reported during the year;-

Measles	22.
Scarlet fever	5.
Primary Pneumonia	1.

None of these cases were admitted to hospital and one of the cases of measles proved fatal.
Under the new Health Act,all fees paid by the Council for the notification of infectious disease are refunded by the County Council provided that copies of the notificationa are received by that authority.

Veneral Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital,Swansea,for the treatment of these cases.The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

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Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....11.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....3.
Number of cases removed due to death.....
Number of cases removed as recovered.....0.
Number of cases removed as left the district.....2.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....12.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:

1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
3.	4.	4.	3.	0.	6.	0.	3.	6.	0.	3.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall.The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. During the first half of 1953, however, it is disturbing to note that only 31% of the estimated number of children reaching the age of one year during this period received this protection. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of tho disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health.